

Kviteseid Voice

**Kviteseid Lutheran Church
August 2021 | Volume 31 | Number 8**

Drought by Bishop Jon V. Anderson

When a drought comes it provokes many God questions and often a spiritual struggle at least for those close to the land. The absence of rain, the destruction of crops, the anxiety about the future gets people's attention who know the Bible and Old Testament prophets. For example, there is the story of Elijah and the drought that fills up 1 Kings 17.

Now Elijah the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word.

Where is God in the time of drought, behind it or working to end it? What is simply the mysterious forces of our planet earth's atmosphere? What are human beings responsible for in

these odd patterns? Droughts make you ask questions of many kinds.

In our weekly check in with our Conference Ministers we talked about the drought. I asked what this group of wise pastors would recommend to congregations, ministers, and pastors as they seek to care for people in the deepening drought that is impacting the land, our crops and plants, the farmers and agribusiness people, and all of us as we are reminded that rain comes as a gift from God and does not always come.

Bringing our lament, our hopes, and our fears to God in this time is a gift. God wants to hear and listens to our prayer.

Help people remember their siblings in Christ. I have vivid memories of hearing my family talk about the terrible drought in the late

80s. Even more so I remember my parents, grandparents and uncles talk about the terrible droughts in the 30's.

With the uncertainty of inadequate rain comes the anxiety of inadequate money and loans that might not be able to be paid. I am not sure how that dimension of life looks for the many farmers and people who are connected to agribusiness by work and or as family members, but this is a tender time and it gets into my bones more every day we go without rain, the cracks open and I imagine the trees and plants groaning with stress.

Every day of our life is a critical moment. These days you can see that more obviously. As the cracks in the ground open, plants are doing

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STEWARDSHIP

Contributions, Gifts, Memorials & Worship



FINANCIAL UPDATE

General Fund
2021 Financial Responsibilities
\$233,650

Checking Register
for the General Fund

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| 6/1/21 balance: | \$6,127 |
| June income: | \$14,176 |
| June expenses: | \$16,845 |
| 6/30/21 balance: | \$3,458 |

Worship Offerings & Attendance



| | | |
|---|---------|----|
| June 20 | \$495 | 36 |
| June 27 | \$816 | 29 |
| July 4 - Lakeside | \$310 | 95 |
| - Loose offering to FLY Backpack program \$260 | | |
| July 11 | \$1,855 | 43 |
| July 18 | \$1,930 | 42 |

Online Giving ... 

Visit our website at
milanslutheranchurch.com

Gifts & Memorials



None to Report

Financial Reminder

Church financial responsibilities continue throughout the summer months. Please send your weekly offerings to the church office or donate online so we can meet our monthly obligations.

THANK YOU!

PRAYERS

We offer up prayers for ...

This section removed for member privacy.

LOCAL NEWS

Pastor, Staff & Officers

Drought by Bishop Jon V. Anderson

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what we need to do: sink our roots more deeply into the ground of our faith. It is a good time to recover your practice of reading scripture, praying for others, and doing works of love in response to the works of love we know through God's Story with humanity.

These are critical days. We humbly pray, "Dear God bring seasonable rain to call your earth and your people out of this drought. God, we trust you are in this with us and will lead us out of this drought because of your gracious love. Amen."



Prayer from ELCA Worship Resource

Gracious God, you are our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble. Reveal your presence so that all may know your healing, hope, and love. As one community on earthbound together by your grace, inspire us to pray, serve, and help all those who suffer.

Sustaining God, you shower your creation with the gifts of your fruitfulness. Send your gifts of rain and nourishment to areas broken by drought and extreme heat.

Wash them in your goodness so all may know of your care and love. Gracious God, you are our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble. Reveal your presence so that all may know your healing, hope, and love. Amen.



Board Meetings

DEACONS

Monday, August 16 at 6:00 p.m. in-person

TRUSTEES

Tuesday, August 17 at 7:00 p.m. in-person

2021 Kviteseid Staff & Officers



Office Staff

Pastor Kristine Isder
pastor@milanslutheranchurch.com

Parish Assistant:
Theresa Erickson
office@milanslutheranchurch.com

Financial Secretary:
Missy Ervin

Building Staff

Custodian: David Thompson

Organist: Judi Bohm

Volunteer Leadership

Sunday School Choir Dir:
Jessica Trager

Sunday School Supt.:
Talia Schuerman

Contributions Secretaries:
Paul Belseth
Heidi Hanson

Church Officers

President: Roger Strand

Vice Pres.: Ken Lee

Secretary: Sherry Norby

Treas.: Rob Schwendemann

Board of Deacons

Marie Molden, Reed Molden,
Cindy Kanten, Rich Isder,
Char Strand

Board of Trustees

Bruce Loose, Josh Moen,
Nate Spray, Josh Vetter, Erik
Boraas

Board of Education

Sue Streed, Emily Heinrich,
Hillary Spray, Holly Kanten,
Jenna Norby

Helping Hands Board

President: Nancy Schneck

Vice President: Sue Vetter

Secretary: Cathy Olson

Treasurer: Theresa Erickson

Ronae Rose, Karla

Schwendemann, Naomi

Streed, Char Johnson, Sue

Streed

WORSHIP NEWS

Schedules & Events

August Worship Assistants

Lectors

- 1 - Heidi Hanson
- 8 - Jen Tostenson
- 15 - Rich Isder
- 22 - Connie Fragodt
- 29 - Lee Haugen

Media Operators

- 1 - Gavin Ascheman
- 8 - Rich Isder
- 15 - Scarlett Trager
- 22 - Paul Tostenson
- 29 - Missy Ervin

Deacon Communion Setup

- 1 - Cindy Kanten

Video Recorders

- 1 - Rich Isder
- 8 - Jon Hanson
- 15 - Theresa Erickson
- 22 - Theresa Erickson
- 29 - Rich Isder

Reminder: It is your responsibility to find a replacement if you are unable to be there the day you are scheduled.

Schedules are also available online at milanslutheranchurch.com



**Sunday, August 1st
during 10:30 a.m. worship**



Coffee Fellowship

Join us!



**COFFEE
FELLOWSHIP**

Please sign up to serve coffee and goodies before worship Sunday mornings.

Coffee fellowship is in the narthex beginning at 9:45 a.m. Ushers will make the coffee. The sign-up sheet is on a table in the narthex.

August



USHERS

Group 4

Captain - Jon Kanten
793-6647

Peter Ervin
Gary Heimdahl
Val Johnson
Keith Kvistero
Jason Norby
Nate Spray

FUNERAL SERVICE GROUPS

Serving the next funeral will be Group 4.

Service Group 4 chairpersons are:

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Robert & Jill Blom | 793-6740 |
| Erik Boraas | 605-695-9862 |
| Craig & Char Strand | 734-4758 |



LOCAL NEWS

August

Helping Hands

Summer is here....hope everyone is enjoying it!!

Thank you to everyone who helped with summer quilting! A good time was had by all as we quilted and shared much fellowship time! Everyone said they missed that part a lot! We made 11 more quilts to share with those in need!

Thanks to all who have brought goodies for summer coffee before church. There is a signup sheet at church if you feel moved to offer that.

August is the time we clean our assigned parts of the church. Since we missed last summer, it is probably really needed this year. Please enlist family members to come and help... particularly the kids! They are awesome! Each of the groups will set up their own times to complete the tasks which are listed in the Service Book. Look for communications from the group chair-

persons. Thank you in advance for that service.

Group 4 is next up for funeral service.

Enjoy your summer and get vaccinated if you haven't already! Thank you if you have already done so!!

Kviteseid Connectors

About a year ago, our congregation formed a group of volunteers called Kviteseid Connectors. We consist of 3 couples, 7 individuals, and 2 families. Our mission is to reach out to members of our congregation who may not always be able to attend worship. We began with members who live in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. We have expanded to some members who live in their own homes. We send notes, make phone calls, and visit when it's possible. It is a fun way to help everyone re-

member that they are an important part of our congregation and we care about them!!

Throughout this last year, many people have felt isolated at times and perhaps have felt lonely. If this sounds like you, we invite you to let us know. Our group is made up of people who care about others. If you would like someone to talk to and/or occasionally visit with, we would like to connect. If interested, please call Char Strand 320-815-0219 or e-mail her at lakeannie@fedteldirect.net.



TWC Bible Study

TWC "Together with Christ" Bible Study will meet Wednesday, August 11th at 1:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Bring your own beverage and snack.

This section removed for member privacy.

WORSHIP NEWS

Worship at the Lake

Worship at the Lake - Sunday, July 4, 2021



Come join us again at the lake on Sunday, September 5th at 9:00 a.m.

2021 Relay for Life

The 2021 Relay for Life of Chippewa/Yellow Medicine Counties will be held on Friday, August 13, 2021 from 5:00-11:00 p.m. at Smith Park in Montevideo. Lorrie Spray will be collecting donations for the American Cancer Society. You may mail your donation to: 4055 130th Ave NW, Milan, MN 56262. If there are any questions, call 226 -5923. Thank you!



Landscaping Project

The new east side landscaping project was completed July 7. Thank you to the Arlo Tostenson family for partnering with all those who have contributed to the landscaping fund.



LOCAL NEWS

Southwest Minnesota Synod

Synod News

Open House for Bishop Jon

Thanks and Appreciation for Bishop Jon Anderson Open House August 14th from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. All are welcome! Redwood Area Community Center, 901 E. Cook Street, Redwood Falls, MN 56283. We are gathering to celebrate Bp. Jon's 18 years of service to the Southwestern Minnesota Synod. Bp. Jon will conclude his third, six-year term as Bishop on August 31, 2021.

Installation of New Bishop

Bishop-elect Dee Pederson becomes the Acting Bishop on Sept. 1, 2021. Her installation will be on Oct. 9th at Granite Falls Lutheran Church at 2 p.m. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will install her and preach.

Synod Staff Transition

Bishop Jon's term as bishop ends August 31. He has accepted a position at Luther Seminary in St. Paul to serve as the Director of Rural Ministry beginning Sept. 20.

Pr. Kathryn Skoglund will complete her work on August 31st, when her call as the Engaging Leaders Synod Minister ends. This decision comes as a result of her prayer and discernment. She will be retiring on Sept. 1, 2021. She will continue to be available to do consulting hours in the transition, particularly helping with the Candidacy Committee work until that is handed off to the next staff member.

Pr. Stephen Cook's term also concludes on August 31st. He will continue as an Interim Synod Minister as other staff are identified and equipped to serve. He will

provide helpful experience during the transition time.

Gifts of Grace

As of June 4th, the total for the Gifts of Grace: Gratitude for 18 Years of Leadership appeal was \$155,296. Back in January 2019 when Phase II of our Gifts of Grace program began, the overall goal was \$280,000, the amount that would be matched by Lilly. With the receipt of these most recent gifts, the goal was exceeded. A total of \$307,288 was raised and gifts are continuing to come in.

Gifts of Grace has been creating a culture of generosity and transforming leaders and congregations since 2016. In partnership with Lilly Endowment, Inc., Gifts of Grace has had an impact by:

- Increasing generosity and stewardship in our congregations through trainings, such as Stewardship for All Seasons, Cultivating Generous Congregations, and the Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising.
- Freeing pastors to lead their congregations in generosity by relieving their own anxiety about stifling educational loans, unexpected medical bills, and retirement insecurity. In 2020, they were able to give 84 grants to rostered ministers, freeing them to better serve.

All of the funds raised, plus the match by Lilly, have been used to support people and ministries in the Synod.



Thank You

Thank you so much for the liberty bag of goodies. It was fun to get and had lots of goodies inside. Thank you Lori for delivering it. We appreciated it so much.

- Gary & Kim Heimdahl

I want to thank the Helping Hands for the July 4th bag of goodies I received. My great-grandchildren were here visiting and they thought there was never a bottom to the bag. Of course I had to share.

- Rose Ann Hanson

I would like to thank Kviteseid for the wonderful "Liberty Bag" I received. It was full of great treats, and was very much appreciated. Thanks again.

- Fern Streed

Thank you for the bag of goodies—too much! I appreciate it. Lots of good stuff! Your kindness means so much!

- Janet Tostenson

Thank you for the Easter/ Liberty Basket and to all who put them together. I didn't think you could get that much in a bag that size.

- Glen Hilden

Thank you for the Liberty Basket. There were so many good things to enjoy in there! Thank you for thinking of us!

- Pastor Kristine and Rich

LOCAL NEWS

Looking Ahead

Thank You

Thank you to everyone for their prayers for my granddaughter, Courtney Hislop. February 2019 she was diagnosed with leukemia. June 26, 2021 she took her last treatment and was given the all-clear "Cancer Free." She will need monthly check-ups for the next year and regular check-ups until she is out of her teens. But as of now she is considered a typical 14-year old girl. Thank You!

- Sue Streed

Thank you for the money that you gave the Fly Backpack Program from the offering given at the May 30th lake service. It is greatly appreciated.



FLY BACKPACK

- Fly Backpack Board,
Cathy Olson

Dear Kviteseid Lutheran Church Members,

Thank you for your donation of \$12.50 to the Lac qui Parle Community Food Shelf. Your generosity will help to buy nutritious food for those in our community who need help in meeting their food needs each month.

Your continued support of the food shelf is very much appreciated. Thank you!

- Lac qui Parle Community Food Shelf,
Stan Olson, Treasurer

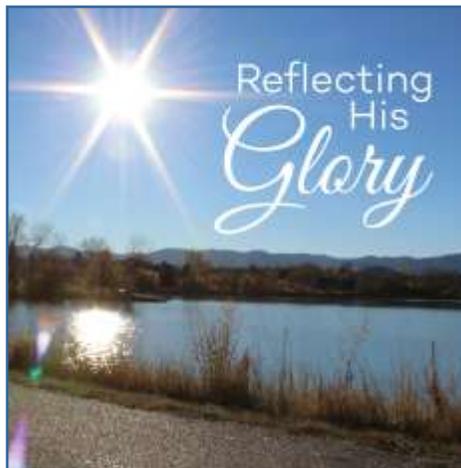
Looking Ahead

Lakeside Worship Sunday, September 5

9:00 a.m.

Milan Beach Resort

Joint Worship with neighboring congregations.



God's Work Our Hands

Sunday, September 12

- Worship at 10:30 a.m.
- Work on Projects from 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
- Dinner at 12:15 p.m.

If you have ideas for a project that could be done that day, please talk to Pastor Kristine.



FUNERAL
Ushers
are needed

If you are able to help out, please contact Pastor Kristine.

Forecast: 100% Goodness

While Stan Purdum pastored an Ohio church in 1988, the region suffered a major drought. Congregants who were farmers saw their fields — and livelihoods — dry up and die. "I was impressed that they didn't stop attending church and kept giving offerings," he says. "A cynic might respond, 'Well, the farmers don't want to offend God and cause him to withhold more rain.' But I concluded, 'Look at their remarkable faith.'"

During the drought, Purdum gave a sermon about Elijah challenging the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:20-40). "Like Elijah, we need to hold on to our belief in God's goodness," he preached. "God will again send rain on our land. We will continue to pray for it. Perhaps it's too late for this year's crop, and we need to care for the people affected. But we do so while maintaining our faith in God's providence."

Bible Quiz

What was the name of the queen who refused to appear before the king of Persia and his guests and, as a result, was deposed?

A. Esther
B. Jael
C. Vashti
D. Milcah

Answer: C (See Esther 1:12.)

Kviteeid Lutheran Church
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www.milanslutheranchurch.com

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

KVITSEID LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Schedule

- ✝ Coffee Fellowship at 9:45 a.m. ✝
- ✝ Worship at 10:30 a.m. ✝
- ✝ Facebook Live Worship at 10:30 a.m. ✝

Church Office Phone: 320-734-4455 ✝ www.milanslutheranchurch.com



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